

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
SSM-03 /060 W
-----060649Z 088145 /15

R 051445Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4325
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: YADIN AND SHARON DISAGREE ON MERGER

1. HAARETZ REPORTED ON JANUARY 4 THAT FOLLOWING A SERIES OF MEETINGS BETWEEN YIGAL YADIN'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE (DMC) AND ARIK SHARON'S PARTY, SHLOMZION, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THEIR DIFFERENCES ON SEVERAL ISSUES WERE TOO LARGE TO BRIDGE AND THAT THE TWO PARTIES WOULD RUN SEPARATELY FOR THE KNESSET ELECTION. YADIN WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THEY AGREED ON THE NEED FOR CHANGING THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND WOULD REFRAIN FROM ATTACKING EACH OTHER DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

2. COMMENT; WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TWO LEADERS GENERALLY SEE EYE TO EYE ON DOMESTIC MATTERS BUT COULD NOT AGREE ON TERRITORIAL ISSUES. IN VIEW OF THE SEVERAL WELL-KNOWN HAWKS WHO ARE CHARTER-MEMBERS OF THE DMC (AND, OF COURSE, SHARON TOO IS REGARDED AS A HARDLINER) THIS COMES AS A MILD SURPRISE. PERHAPS THE PROBLEM OF TWO STRONG PERSONALITIES ON THE SAME TICKET WAS ALSO A FACTOR. IN ANY CASE, THE TWO
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PARTIES APPEAR TO BE POTENTIAL PARTNERS FOR A POST-ELECTION

3. TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST REPORTED THAT EHUD AVRIEL, ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL IN CHICAGO AND VETERAN DIPLOMAT, HAS JOINED THE DMC AND WILL APPEAR IN THE PARTY'S KNESSET LIST. AVRIEL WAS ISRAEL'S FIRST MINISTER IN PRAGUE AND IN TURN MINISTER TO BUDAPEST AND TO BUCHAREST. HE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO GHANA

AND LIBERIA, 1957-1960, AMBASSADOR TO THE CONGO (ZAIRE) 1960-1961, AND AMBASSADOR TO ROME 1966-1969. AVRIEL WAS ELECTED TO THE KNESSET AS A MAPAI MK IN 1955 AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE RAFI PARTY. HE IS FAMED FOR HIS ILLEGAL ALIYA AND RESCUE WORK IN MANDATE TIMES AND HIS EFFORTS IN ARMS PROCUREMENT DURING THE FIRST ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. THE POST REPORTS THAT YADIN MET WITH AVRIEL DURING A VISIT TO CHICAGO LAST MAY.
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